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IN THE MINES

Operations in Cochise County, Sonora and
Throughout the Territory

MOCTEZUMA COPPER COMPANY

A Description of a Big Industry in Southern Sonora.

Allen T. Bird writing in the Oasis
says:

During the several years now the public have known there was a big copper mine and reduction works over in the Moctezuma district of Sonora; but it has been so far away that but little information of what was going on over there came to the outside world, and from what has been made known one can form no idea of the extent and magnitude of the mines and works and the importance of the great industry created near Nacozari by the Moctezuma Copper Co., one of the allied corporations owned and controlled by Phelps, Dodge & Co., of New York, who also control the Copper Queen mines at Bisbee, Arizona, the big copper mines at Morenci, and one of the big copper mines at Globe. When one makes the one hundred mile drive between Bisbee and the seat of the company's operations, and notes the tremendous amount of transportation stretched along the road between Naco and Nacozari, all engaged in conveying the commodities consumed by this great industry, and the product it exports, some conception arises in his mind that he is en route to a scene of colossal operation; but it is not until the place is visited and carefully inspected that any idea is reached of the extent and importance of this great camp.

The site of the company's reduction works is at Placeritas, upon the Oposura river, about ninety miles from Naco, the sub-port near Bisbee where all traffic for that part of Sonora crosses the international line. The mines are about six miles away, and the ore is brought down by a narrow gauge railway five and one-half miles long. At the upper terminus of the railway there is an incline upon which the cars are lifted and lowered by a tramway over-coming an elevation of 585 feet. The tramway is operated by gravity, the loaded car descending lifting the empty one. From the head of the incline there are but a thousand feet of railway to the mouth of the upper tunnel, where are the ore bins, from which the ore is dumped into the cars, which are hauled to the head of the incline, let down the tramway, coupled to a locomotive and hauled to the reduction works, the train running over a steel trestle work to the top of the ore bins these at an elevation of forty feet above the rock crusher. These bins have a capacity of 2400 tons—six day's supply—and are made entirely of steel, being about thirty feet high, one hundred feet long and fifteen feet wide.

From the foot of the incline, at the upper terminus of the railway, a tunnel is being run to cut the ore body at a depth of 585 feet below the present workings. The tunnel is now about four thousand feet in length and has about one thousand feet farther to run. From the upper tunnel a shaft four hundred feet deep reaches down toward the line of the tunnel now penetrating the mountain. Further sinking in the shaft was stopped by water flowing in such quantities that heavy pumping machinery would be required to handle it. A tunnel a mile long it was found would be less expensive. It will thoroughly drain the mine down to its own level and save the cost of the incline. Any ore below that level will have to be sunk for; but that is a consideration to be encountered years hence, for the ore now in sight above will keep the big plant busily engaged for many years. At the mouth of the lower level is a small air compressor to drive the Burleigh drills, a blower to send fresh air into the breast, and an electric light plant to light up the tunnel. Work therein is driven continuously, there being no stop. In going in the tunnel has cut one body of very good ore, forty feet wide.

The ore body, as at present developed, is in the form of a crescent. The workings cut the crescent about its center, and the widest part thereof. At that point it is one hundred and twenty feet in width. The country rock is porphyry, and the ledge matter is a porphyritic rock permeated with copper, iron and sulphur. The entire ledge is stoped out, run to reduction works, concentrated and smelted. There is no ore sorting, and the rock reduced runs about seven per cent copper. The rock is so compact that no timbering is necessary. In all the underground work of this great mine the only timber employed has been the track sleepers.

The power used for driving nearly all the machinery about the reduction works comes from the power house, a long brick building where are installed eight gas engines, of forty horse power capacity. Each engine runs a 260-volt dynamo, from which the power is transmitted by wires to electric motors,

whenever wanted.

The gas is manufactured in a gas plant, a short distance away from the power house. Eight tons of coal are consumed daily, giving a power which would consume thirty tons daily if used under steam boilers.

The machine shops, carpenter shops, etc., are all of the very best description. The buildings are all of brick or stone, with iron roofs, and inside are all sorts of machinery and appliances.

There are also well-appointed assay offices, foundry, etc.

Upon opposite side of the river from the works are the living quarters of those employed in and about the works. Five long brick buildings, one story in height, arranged both sides of a long, wide street, house a large part of the population. Farther back is another row of similar structures devoted to the families of those Americans employees who have brought with them their wives and families. At one end of the principal street, in one of the long buildings mentioned, is the company's store, warehouse and offices. In the store a large force of clerks are engaged, and the place presents a very busy scene from six o'clock in the morning until eight o'clock at night.

As yet a large part of the work of the Moctezuma Copper Co. is in its constructive stage. Within a year all of the construction will be finished, the railway from Bisbee will be completed into the camp, and the operation of the company will come down to the mining and production of copper.

Everything is under the supervision of Doctor S. L. Ricketts, general manager, who has been twelve years in the service of the company, serving the greater part of that time as consulting engineer, which post he still retains at the other plants mentioned in the beginning of this article.

From President R. A. F. Penrose and Supt. Brockman of the Commonwealth at Pearce it is learned that the new 80 stamp mill of the company is pounding away on ore to its full capacity. About 130 men are kept busily employed and the mine and milling plant running smoothly, accumulating dividends for the fortunate owners. The Tombstone Prospector says that the Commonwealth company is among the best dividend paying mines in the west and has done much to add to the fame of Cochise county as the banner mining county of the territory.

C. C. Campbell returned this week from Philadelphia. He will immediately commence work again in the Mammoth and Republic mines. This is certainly good news, as these properties are simply magnificent and by further development are bound to become one of the great producers of Arizona. Mr. Campbell is an old mining man who thoroughly understands his business, and he knows when he has a good thing. The Mammoth and Republic are certainly flattering properties.—Range News.

The Jerome Reporter says: "The first trouble that has grown out of the organization of the Miners' Union is being heard at Judge McKinnon's court this afternoon. George H. Kimbell is being tried on a misdemeanor charge made by Jake Weber, an officer at the works. It is claimed by Weber that he ordered Kimbell, who is the delegate of the local union, to keep off the company's grounds, and upon his failure to do so arrested Kimbell, who was let out on \$200 bonds. The objection to Kimbell was that he was thought to be arranging and advising a strike of the smelter men."

A San Bernardino correspondent of the Los Angeles Times of January 30 says: "Fred Pourade arrested Richard Belk in Redlands Monday evening and brought him to this city, where he was placed in the county jail. Belk was formerly secretary and treasurer of the Miners' union at Jerome, Arizona, and it is alleged that he left that part of the country with over \$400 that belonged to the association. A reward of \$100 was ordered for his arrest."

Dr. W. F. Chenoweth, manager of the Nogales Mining company, came up to Nogales last Thursday morning from the company's big mines, thirty miles from Magdalena, Sonora, Mexico. The Nogales Vidette says that everything is flourishing at the big gold mine and the 20-stamp mill is hammering away with good results.—Oasis.

Col. Epes Randolph arrived in Phoenix on a visit. The colonel is watching H. J. Allen over the long distance telephone.—Gazette.

The Rock Island railroad has a stretch of 125 miles of straight track on its newly built line running through Oklahoma.

County division has cropped out in both houses of the legislature and the indications are for a hot time generally at an early date.

FROM GRAHAM COUNTY.

Interesting News Items from Clifton, Morenci and the Gila Valley.

The grip has to some extent been shaken off in Solomonville and Druggist W. G. Clemons and Drs. Lacy and Dudley are thinking about taking a trip to the sea shore next summer.

Solomonville is an incorporated town. At a meeting of the city council last week it was decided to cut down the boundaries of the city limits.

The Gila valley settlements are solid against the division of Graham county. Mass meetings were held in every town last week.

Mrs. E. T. Ijams and son left for Phoenix this week where they will join Mr. Ijams and remain during the legislative session.

John D. Dowdle returned this week from a trip to Canada. John is an old timer in the valley and his many friends are glad to see him back again. He was in Solomonville Thursday and left on Friday for La Cananea, Mexico.

E. L. Shaw has returned from Naco and other points in the vicinity of Bisbee where he went looking up opportunity for business.

The Safford post office is now third class in grade. No appointment of postmaster has yet been announced by the President, but it is the general belief that the present incumbent, Miss Kate Tuttle will be continued.

Word was received by Mr. C. H. Merrill, superintendent of the Spenazuma Mining company in the Clark district from the stockholders, ordering the work to stop. Mr. Merrill thinks work will be resumed in a few months.

On account of the new Army bill all the officers have been ordered before the board for examination for promotion. There will probably be many changes in Fort Grant in a short time. Among other things changed by the Army bill is the closing of the bar in the post canteen which will certainly increase the business of the Bonita merchants.

Hon. John C. Herndon, of Prescott, one of the leading attorneys of Prescott was a visitor in Clifton last week.

Dr. E. G. Carleton, the new D. C. M. Co. physician, has been worked almost to death since his arrival on account of the unusually large amount of sickness. His anxiously awaited assistant, Dr. Green, arrived Saturday, and will help to make things easier.

Machinery for the Medler smelter is now arriving. The siding connecting the A. & N. M. railroad with the plant is in operation. The work at the plant is progressing favorably.

A large number of sheep, probably as many as 200,000, are drifting down from the northern ranges of the territory into Graham county.

Wm. M. Murphy, a miner employed in the Yankee mine, was badly injured while at work last Tuesday by a mass of rock and dirt caving in. His collar bone was broken and shoulders badly bruised.

Deputy Sheriff Lee Hobbs, of Clifton, and Abran Molino, special Southern Pacific railway detective, made an important capture in Clifton this morning. They arrested a Mexican by the name of Alvitaz, who, with two other Mexicans, are charged with killing a merchant at Isleta, Texas, about a year ago, and afterwards attempted to wreck an S. P. train near El Paso. Alvitaz has two brothers residing in Clifton and was captured in one of their houses.

R. B. Peasons, of Morenci, J. B. Ritter and Dr. H. A. Schell, while out hunting a week ago last Sunday, found some old Indian caves about 20 miles up Eagle creek above the pump and about two miles from the river. Judging from the amount of sand and bat guano, the caves must have been deserted for at least two hundred years. After about an hour's search they unearthed 60 sandals and several pieces of pottery, etc. They will make another trip to the caves and go prepared to make a thorough search for relics.

Wednesday J. D. Milton of Nozales started for Navasota, Texas, to visit his mother.

Monday evening fifty-one Chinese in bond came from San Francisco and crossed the line into Mexico.—Oasis.

William Powers, formerly with Gardiner, Worthen & Goss, is now employed as stenographer at the Cananea mining camp.

A primary election law was introduced into the house yesterday. Among the good features of the bill confines voting at primaries to citizens of the precinct which they are registered and primaries are to be held under nearly as stringent provisions as the general election.—Gazette.

Frank Main, who was shot at Nogales and seriously wounded a week ago, continues to improve. Dr. Ferguson, the attending physician, hopes to have him out and around again in a very short time.

About the tenth inst. Mark Lulley of Nogales, will start for the east, with the little bears, to take part in the inauguration parade at Washington, and will soon afterwards put them in the zoological park at the Smithsonian institute.

THE LEGISLATURE.

COUNTY DIVISION AND BULLION TAX PERPLEXING QUESTIONS.

The New Code--No "Cafe" Has Been Established--Gray in Favor of Prison Removal.

PHOENIX, A. T., Feb. 4, 1900.

The legislature has really gotten down to work and is piling in at a rate that shows a commendable desire to be done within the sixty day session. The clerks are busy, too, all equipped with paste pots and shears, snipping into eighty copies of the old "reviled statutes," assisting in the investigation of the new code. Thereby is saved much money to the people, or, rather, the coin that might have gone to the underserving printer is thereby diverted to the clerk who has walked in the straight and narrow political path. The code is being distributed around to the committees, an armful at a time, but none of the acts have come out of the hopper at this writing.

Despite the intimation of the legislators that a "cafe" ought to be established for the refreshment of the weary and thirsty solons, no "cafe" is yet in sight. It may be that the secretary and legislature are waiting till the departure of the president of the W. C. T. U. and the chairman of the territorial prohibition party, who have simultaneously struck the burg. They are here to urge woman's suffrage. Their utmost work will probably be the inhibition of traffic in booze within the tufa walls of the Territory's capitol. These arid features may account for the frequent adjournments taken by the legislature during the week. The only flaw in the palpable deduction is that Kimball of Graham, a consistent temperance man, has moved several of the recesses. Yet it is not to be denied that Gus Hirschfeld's best trade these days is in hardware bottled in small packages, and that the most envied man in the legislature is he who won the silver pocket flask in the drive whist end of a late reception.

I have watched ten legislatures and haven't found out why, but it is a fact that county division bills are always slow on the ground. It may be that the introducers wait to clinch the votes in advance, before the defenders are aware of the imminent danger. The Clark county bill will be in this week, however. It is very different from the first measure drafted. It will leave to Yavapai county about all the railroad mileage she enjoys at present, and even turns over to her tender mercies a few miles of Senator Clark's narrow-gauge road to Jerome, though with about twelve years to run on its tax exemption privilege. The Prescott folks are not so virulent in their opposition, therefore, though a petition has come to hand, signed by 300 good citizens of Prescott, arguing against further mutilation of the much dissected mother of counties.

Nothing has been heard of as yet concerning the new county of which Clifton seeks to be the county seat. The bill is coming, but not till there is better assurance of passage than at the present time. This division scheme is not as wide reaching as it was at first, and now looks only to a division of Graham into eastern and western sections. In this connection, it might be interesting to learn that to Chairman Shannon's council committee on counties and county boundaries have been added Councilmen Warner and Perkins. An aftermath of the county division bills of the last legislature is a bill that commands the supervisors of Pima and Santa Cruz counties to get together and to settle quarrels that have to be settled concerning matters of county indebtedness.

The junketing committees are taking their time about banding in reports. They are not expected to report before the last day allowed them, February 11. The committees on the University and Tempe Normal School appear well satisfied with what they have seen. The University will probably be given the \$25,000 asked for a fire-proof library, and the Normal is likely to get a slightly larger maintenance fund and something more for a dormitory. The Northern Normal School, which has had a checkered career already, will probably be given another twist by the present legislature. The school will probably be continued as a normal, for nothing better can be thought of, but into its work will likely be interwoven a plan for the maintenance of a summer school, especially for the benefit of the teachers already working in the common schools of Arizona. If this change is made the Northern Normal will have a place of its own and will well repay all expenditures made upon it.

Particular interest is centered in the prison report. Gray of Cochise, who headed the house section of the committee of investigation, has introduced a bill calling for the appointment of a commission to select a site for a new penitentiary and to report by May 1 of this year.

The legislators are getting along very amicably, though there seems to be a good deal of friction between their

communities. For instance, the governor's recommendations that all the federal offices in Arizona be concentrated in Phoenix has caused threats from Tucson that the insane asylum will be moved, and from Prescott that application will forthwith be made to congress for the formation of northern Arizona into a new territory, the capital whereof shall be Prescott. Tucson is not pleased with the prospect of losing the Surveyor General and United States Marshal, and neither Prescott or Tucson will willingly detach themselves from their land offices. The county division suggestions are peace disturbers, and prison removal will be another.

But the legislature got together on one thing during the week, and in it northern Arizona scored the first big point of the session. The legislature adopted a memorial, addressed to the Secretary of the Interior, opposing the scheme to issue lieu land certificates for the railroad and Perrin sections of the San Francisco mountain forest reserve. The Maricopa county representatives opposed the resolution mildly, but it went through both houses in a day and was telegraphed to Washington. The main point is that by consolidating the reserve about one-half the taxable valuation of Coconino would be destroyed and county government made about impossible. By consolidation the values of the county and municipal bonded indebtedness would be deprived of much of the security that equitably belongs behind it, and several of the county's district schools would be compelled to close. At the best there would be left only about \$1,200,000 of taxable property in the county, and as the present tax rate is one of the highest the revenue to be derived under the changed conditions would not pay interest and fixed charges.

DAMAGES FOR EMPLOYEES

A Bill Introduced in the House Making an Employer Responsible for Damages.

Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Arizona:

Section 1. Where any personal injury shall hereafter occur to any employee while in the course of his employment, the employer shall be responsible to such employee, or, in case of his death, to the parties entitled to sue by law for all damages sustained on account of such injuries in the same manner and to the same extent as though such fact of employment did not exist, except in the following cases:

Where the employee himself has contributed to the injury complained of by his own negligence.

Sec. 2. All Acts or parts of Acts in conflict with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. This Act shall take effect and be in force on and after its passage and approval.

THE legislature should scrutinize very closely any bill presented connected in any way with the issuance of bonds of Maricopa county for water storage purposes. The territory, as a whole, should not be asked to stand as surety for Maricopa county bonds, or for any other county, for any purpose.

Two years ago Governor Murphy, in his message to the legislature, recommended the passage of a law giving the franchise to women. He is now silent on the subject. The recent decision of Judge Sloan may have shown the governor that woman suffrage in Arizona could not be.

THE Gazette says President McKinley has signified his intention and willingness to pay Phoenix a visit. As the President will not arrive in Phoenix until after the departure of the legislature perhaps no harm will come of the visit.

It seems the legislature is in no haste to appropriate more money on the Northern Arizona Normal. A wise procedure that will meet with the approval of every sensible thinking citizen of the territory.

THE press of Arizona should be gratified at the appointment of Hon. E. T. Ijams, of Graham county, as chairman of the printing committee in the assembly. Mr. Ijams is a staunch friend of the newspapers and will not turn them down on any fair and reasonable proposition.

THE last heard from Teddy Roosevelt he was still slashing away with his trusty hunting knife. M. Quad's Arizona Kicker stories, alongside the reported experiences of the vice president, will make mighty tame reading.